

OUTGOING MESSAGE

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100220027-5

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SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

061014Z CIA/WHSS

26304

SOURCE RE

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

ITEM NO:

WH-4

DATE: 6 MAR 74

SUBJECT: EUROPEANS FEAR US REACTION TO EC-ARAB COOPERATION
PLANS WILL BENEFIT FRENCH

EUROPEAN OFFICIALS FEAR THAT US CRITICISM OF THE EC'S
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS INTENTION TO EXPLORE WIDE-RANGING COOPERATIVE
PROJECTS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES MAY BENEFIT THE FRENCH, WHO HAVE
BEEN ARGUING THAT THE US-INITIATED COOPERATION AMONG CONSUMER
COUNTRIES IS DESIGNED TO UNDERCUT EUROPEAN UNITY.

THERE IS CONCERN, IN PARTICULAR, THAT ANY US EMPHASIS ON

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State Department review completed

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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26384

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THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE EC-ARAB PROGRAM ON THE WORK OF THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP WOULD IMPLY THAT THE FORMER WAS RELATED MAINLY TO ENERGY--A NOTION THAT PARIS MAY WANT TO PROMOTE, BUT WHICH THE EC COMMISSION AND FRANCE'S PARTNERS WANT TO AVOID.

THE IMPACT OF US CRITICISM IS LIKELY TO BE STRONG BECAUSE THE NINE BELIEVE THEY HAD ALREADY MODIFIED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THEIR PROPOSAL--NOTABLY IN DROPPING REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBLE TIMING OF AN EC-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING--TO REFLECT SOME US CONCERNS, AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ACCEPTED ASSURANCES THAT THE US WOULD BE FULLY CONSULTED IN THE COURSE OF THE EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THE ARABS.

IN ADDITION, THE NINE CONSIDER THEY HAD MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION TO THE US ON THE SUBJECT OF US-EC CONSULTATIONS IN READYING A REVISED DRAFT OF THE US-EC "ATLANTIC" DECLARATION FOR TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS IN MID-MARCH. EUROPEANS HOPE THAT THE EC-ARAB EFFORT WILL NOT SIDETRACK EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE DECLARATION, THAT WOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR A SPRING VISIT TO EUROPE BY PRESIDENT NIXON.

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THE UNDERLYING CONCERN OF FRANCE'S PARTNERS IS THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO "CHOOSE" BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE US IF A DISPUTE IS ALLOWED TO DEVELOP OVER THE EC-ARAB PLANS. AT THE MEETING OF THE NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON MONDAY, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT ALREADY PUT THE NINE'S ACTION IN TERMS OF THE EUROPEANS STANDING UP AND THE US BACKING DOWN. IN A SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, JOBERT ALSO TRIED TO EMPHASIZE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE WORK OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE FOLLOW-ON PROCEDURES AND THE "LASTING" NATURE OF EC-ARAB COOPERATION.

THE BRITISH, MEANWHILE, WHILE ADMITTING THAT EC MEETINGS WITH ARABS WOULD BE DIFFICULT WITHOUT IN SOME WAY DISCUSSING OIL, CONTINUE TO STRESS THE LIKELY SLOW PACE OF THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE AND CLAIM THAT THE EC HAD "NOTHING OF VALUE" TO OFFER THE ARABS EITHER POLITICALLY OR ECONOMICALLY.

EC EFFORTS TO COORDINATE POSITIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP WILL CONTINUE AT TOMORROW'S SESSION OF THE EC ENERGY COMMITTEE. BECAUSE FRANCE IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE COORDINATING GROUP, THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH CANNOT

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■■■■■BE REPRESENTED IN THE GROUP, BUT THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT EC-WIDE PREPARATION WOULD AT LEAST NOT FURTHER DIVIDE FRANCE. FROM ITS PARTNERS AND COULD MAKE IT LESS DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH TO COME ALONG AT SOME LATER STAGE.

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INITIALING OFFICERS

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